

REMARKS

As an initial matter, Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's determination that claims 2 and 30-33 contain allowable subject matter (Office Action, dated April 22, 2003, page 3, lines 11-14).

Claims 28 and 29 have been amended to correct minor typographical errors. Claim 38 has been amended to depend upon claim 1.

The present amendment has not limiting effect on the claims and adds no new matter to the application.

The Rejections

Claim 38 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. Claims 1, 24, 28, 29, 36 and 46 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as anticipated by Japanese Document JP 11279511 (hereafter, the "JP'511 Document"). Claims 1, 24, 28, 29, 36 and 46 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as anticipated by Japanese Document JP 11279513 (hereafter, the "JP'513 Document").

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and request reconsideration for the following reasons.

Applicants' Arguments

Applicants' point out that the present claims are in compliance with 35 U.S.C. 112 and are definite. Claim 38 now depends upon claim 1.

Applicants note that, as pointed out by the Examiner (Office Action, dated April 22, 2003, page 3, lines 7-10), certified English translations of the Japanese priority documents JP 09-079422, JP 09-079424, and JP 09-252933, have not yet been submitted. In Amendment (B), filed on December 18, 2002, page 5, lines 18-20, Applicants indicated that the required certified English translations were to be filed with Amendment (B); however, these documents were inadvertently omitted. This was a clerical error and was made without deceptive intent.

The present response rectifies the deficiency in the previous response. In accordance with 35 U.S.C. 119 and 37 C.F.R. 1.55, Applicants presently have met all of the requirements for establishing priority based upon the relevant foreign documents by filing a certified English translation of each of these documents at this time. Consequently, Applicants have met their burden of establishing that neither the JP'511 Document nor the JP'513 Document are valid prior art references against the present claims. Consequently, all rejections relying upon either one of the JP'511 Document and the JP'513 Document must be withdrawn. Applicants assert that no further discussion of these moot references is necessary.

Conclusion

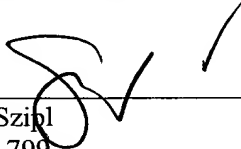
The present claims are clear and definite. The rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) are invalid and must be withdrawn because neither the JP'511 Document nor the JP'513 Document are valid prior art references against the present claims.

For these and all of the above reasons, claims 1, 2, 8, 9 and 19-45 are believed to be in condition for allowance and a prompt Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Questions are welcomed by the below-signed attorney for applicants.

Respectfully submitted,

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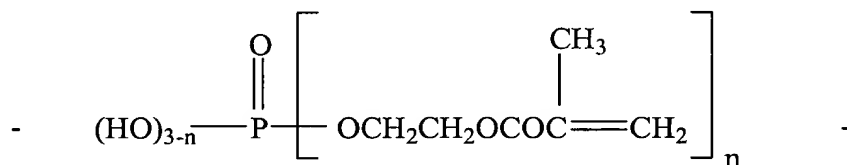
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MARKED UP VERSION SHOWING CHANGES

28. (Amended) The circuit-connecting material according to claim 1, wherein said curing agent capable of generating free radicals upon heating is a peroxyester.

29. (Amended) The circuit-connecting material according to claim 1, wherein said radical-polymerizable substance comprises a radical-polymerizable substance represented by the following chemical formula (a):



...(a)

wherein n is an integer of 1 to 3.

38. (Amended) The circuit-connecting material according to claim 12, which contains conductive particles.